the scheme. The World Bank has opined that the Reconnaissance Report needs to be strengthened in the fields of environment, hydrology, tidal power generation, economic analysis and institutional and financial capabilities. It was also suggested some additional studies and a number of field surveys prior to commencing a full feasibility study.

Government of Gujarat have requested for World Bank assistance to finance the pre-feasibility studies of this project and project construction as a w ble considering this as a national project. The project is at a conceptual stage.

Water supply to Saurashtra and Kutch

3527. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI SOM PAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 197 given in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd November, 1991 and state:

(a) since when the project report prepared by the Government of Gujarat and submitted to the Planning Commission for carrying Narmada water through the bridge on Gulf of Cambay is pending for examination in the Planning Commission; and

(b) whether Government of Gujarat is likely to be permitted to construct bridge Road-cum-Pipe line Project on the basis of a pre-feasibility report submitted by Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Ltd. on water supply to Saurashtra and Kutch region from their own funds and schemes sponsored by them?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) The revised project proposal was received from Government of Gujarat in the Planning Commission in April, 1991. Comments of M/s Water and Power Consultancy Services Limited have been obtained on the revised proposal and the matter is under examination in the Planning Commission.

Seepage of water from unlined canals

3528. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI SOM PAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge quantities of water are being lost through seepage from unlined canals and channels in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as a result thereof water logging is affecting large tracts of arable land;

(c) whether it is a fact that as a result of water logging the menace of salinity is turning millions of acres into unproductive land;

(d) if so, what is the percentage of water that is wasted through seepage and what is the estimated quantity of water thus lost;

(e) whether Government are considering any plan to link all the canals and channels; and

(f) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (d) In any Irrigation Water Conveyance System, seepage losses are inevitable. It is estimated that seepage losses are roughly 25 to 50 per cent of water diverted through canal network. However, part of the same is being recycled for irrigation through groundwater development.

Seepage is one of the reasons for waterlogging along with inadequate drainage system and improper water management. Similarly salinisation of land is also a result of many factors of which one may be water logging.